

DECEMBER

Division of Environmental Services

Safety message

...from the Division Chief

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Holiday Season. Winter is again upon us and it is time to start re-orienting our minds and our driving habits to the dangers of operating vehicles in adverse weather conditions. Driving in northern California is challenging, even under the best of circumstances. The winter season is prone to abrupt changes in weather that can result in treacherous road conditions, rain, fog, ice or snow sometimes in small geographic areas.

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/roadsandtraffic.html>

Please consider weather and road conditions and allow for increased travel times. Also be sure to take additional safety measures to help reduce your risk.

Have a safe winter driving season.

Sincerely,

Dean Messer, Chief
Division of Environmental Services

Subject matter experts needed

- Boat Operations training development.
- DES Stand down day. Looking for experts to give 30-60 minute discussion on work place safety issues or operational safety training of equipment.
- DES safety link, help develop a DES safety portal.

If you have any special skills and or knowledge on any safety issues.

Contact Donald Guy to find how you can help.

SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU.

December tips:

- Make sure your vehicle is tuned and prepared for winter conditions check your battery, antifreeze, windshield wiper fluid, windshield wipers, headlights, and tires.
- Make sure your headlights are on. California requires drivers to keep their headlights on if their windshield wipers are on.
- Slow down. Braking takes longer on slippery roads, the slower you go, the easier it will be for you to maintain control and stop your vehicle.
- Increase your following distance. Especially if you are going slowly due to bad weather.
- Always wear a seat belt.
- Stay fresh and alert when driving. Take plenty of rest breaks. This is also the cold season. If you feel groggy. Do not drive, if possible. Put off your trip or ask someone else to drive.
- With the cooler weather, allow time for your vehicle to warm up. Let the window defroster clear the vehicles windows before you start out.
- Put together a car emergency kit.

Think Safety visit <http://swpsafety.water.ca.gov> for more information